



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor
STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY JOSEPH E. WAINSCOTT, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)
Emergency Operations Center
Friday, September 19, 2008, 8:30 p.m. EDT**

NOTE: This will be the last media briefing from the Emergency Operations Center. The Office of Disaster Recovery has been engaged, and IDHS is continuing to provide support through data and status reports, as needed. New items are in **bold**.

State EOC Activation

The IDHS Emergency Operations Center remains activated at a Level 3 and will remain activated 24 hours to monitor conditions and provide resource support to local county emergency agencies.

****Governor Daniels has signed an executive order declaring a disaster emergency for Lake and Porter Counties.**

Description of Incident

The remnants of Hurricane Ike have accelerated rapidly and moved over Indiana. As much as 10 inches of rain has fallen and widespread flooding is being reported across northwest Indiana. Damage from strong straight line winds up to 80 mph have been reported in numerous counties damage across much of central and southern Indiana parts of the State. Widespread reports of trees and power lines down have also been received.

Current Situation

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are conducting joint damage assessment operations in northern Indiana to expedite the federal declaration process. Reports indicate over 500 Lake County homes have been damaged.

The Governor's Office of Disaster Recovery is preparing to open One Stop Shops in Lake County to provide disaster relief assistance. **Centers should open as early as Tuesday in Munster, Gary and Lake Station.**

The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has evaluated the levee at Sumava in Newton County, US 41 at County Road 1150N., and has recommended close monitoring for the next 14 days. Initial reports were correct of a possible levee breach at Sumava Resorts. The levee did experience a minor leak with some white sand coming through the small breach. Sand bags were placed in the breached area, which has resolved the current issue.

State and federal agricultural departments will be conducting assessments of damaged crops. Counties are advised to contact their local Farm Services Agency representative with any inquiries.

Department of Natural Resources will be assisting Crawford County in removing wooded debris in waterway on Blue River.

Agencies Active in State Response Operations

State Agencies:

- **All Essential Staff Functions (ESF) will be released from duty tonight. ESF coordinators will remain on stand-by for recall to duty if conditions worsen.**
- **The Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) in Lake County is in the process of demobilizing and all missions have been completed successfully. All personnel will be departing the area tomorrow.**
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Indiana National Guard
- Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives - staffing toll free number

Federal Agencies:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Non-Government Agencies:

American Red Cross (ARC)

The following are reported major concerns for each category:

Weather Forecast

No significant rain is forecasted through Thursday (9/25).

Outages

Reports from power companies including Duke, IPL, REMCs and Vectren indicate that customer outages have totaled 519,792. Restoration is currently at 94%, with 31,049 customers in Indiana remaining without power.

Due to continuing extensive electrical power outages, a curfew is in affect for the Town of Charleston in Clark County.

Duke Energy has reported a concerted focus on restoring power in Crawford County, with 290 linemen, and anticipates complete restoration by Saturday (9/20) PM. About 26,000 remain out of service in Clarksville, Connersville, Corydon and Madison.

Harrison REMC reporting sections of Floyd County may not have power until 09/24/08.

Lake/River/Dam

The Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) has observed another culvert blockage that is causing flooding at the interchange of I-80/94 and I-65. Interstate traffic is not affected at this time. IMAT personnel are in route to assess the situation.

Debris has been cleared at the railroad bridge over the Little Calumet River in Lake County and has alleviated some issues with restricted flow. Incident Management Team (IMAT) on-scene reports conditions are improving.

IMAT is also monitoring the levee that protects that Marshalltown section of Gary in Lake County.

The St. Joseph River in Elkhart has dropped below flood stage.

Transportation

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) opened I-65 and I-80/94 at 7:30 p.m. EDT on Thursday.

The Indiana Toll Road has resumed normal toll collections operations.

US 231 bridge over the Kankakee River is in danger of being covered by flood water. Indiana State Police report water is still flowing under the bridge as of 1:00 AM EDT.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Water Division has reported that sink holes have been found in the dam at Lake of Four Seasons located on the Lake and Porter County line east of Crown Point. Nothing in the report indicated there was any imminent danger of failing.

Drinking Water

All drinking water requests have been fulfilled by IDHS. The drinking water is currently being staged at the Henryville Correctional Center in Clark County.

Clark County has reported a water boil order for the Town of Utica.

Food Service

Feeding operations continue today in Crawford County by the Red Cross, in Harrison County by local faith based groups with support from the Red Cross as needed, and in Floyd County by the Salvation Army and at the shelters in Lake County.

Today will be the last day for fixed feeding sites/meal service in Crawford County. Heater meals will be issued on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at each of the Fire Houses for those residents that still remain without power.

A five day food supply shipment for Jennings and Jefferson Counties will be delivered tomorrow. Requests for food by Floyd County were fulfilled by District 7.

Public Health & Safety

The Indiana State Department of Health provides the following food safety advice for residents affected by power outages.

- **Throw away food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.**
- **Throw away perishables including meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers that have been above 40°F for two hours or more.**
- **While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Thawed food can be refrozen or cooked if it has ice crystals or is 40°F or below.**
- **If there is no running water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before preparing or eating food.**

Munster in Lake County received 980 doses of tetanus shots yesterday evening and has another shipment of 980 doses in route.

The American Red Cross (ARC) completed the request for cleanup kits / flood buckets in Lake County by IMAT using INVOAD/United Methodist resources. Five pallets of flood buckets will be moved from Indianapolis to Lake County staging area to meet the need.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boats have been delivering medicine to citizens who cannot get out to pick it up themselves.

Medical Aid Stations: Floyd County - County fire stations are open for people with special medical needs such as oxygen machines, breathing treatments, etc.

Harrison County Emergency Medical Service is handling oxygen and breathing treatments as well as mental health issues.

Fatalities – 8 total

A nineteen year old female drowned in Wheatfield, Indiana (Jasper County). **The incident's relation to severe weather is being investigated.**

Injuries – 19

Shelters

Munster High School (Lake County) – CLOSED yesterday, population transferred to new shelter located at the Family Christian Center in Munster.

Calumet Twp. Center (Lake County) - 35

Boys and Girls Club (Lake County) - 78

Family Christian Center (Lake County) – 19

First United Methodist Church (Jennings County) – 72

Total Reported Shelter Population – 204

Environmental

IDEM continues to coordinate with landfill operators and local solid waste districts in Southern Indiana to properly manage storm debris.

Other concerns and information:

The Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is staffing a toll free number (888-335-9490) for Indiana residents to report damage. An online form is provided for Hoosiers to report damage at www.in.gov/dhs.

IDHS logistics team is in the process of procuring 5,000 meals ready to eat for storage to use in current and future events.

Emergency operations have begun to transition from response to recovery.

Downed power lines, storm debris, fallen trees and high water continue to be a threat to the public and response personnel.

IPSC SAFE-T system currently has 4 radio tower sites on generator power only and all sites continue to be operating in wide trunking.

Northeastern Indiana

FSSA, Department of Insurance and Housing has set up Disaster Recovery Centers in Gary, Hobart and Hammond to help Hoosiers with reviewing and filing insurance claims, and temporary housing assistance. These centers will be open through Friday (9/19/08) from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reported water is receding in Munster, Lake County and field personnel are beginning to switch from boats to SUVs.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) from a wildland fire community agency will replace the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) field personnel on Saturday.

Southeastern Indiana

Department of Natural Resources will be assisting Crawford County in removing wooded debris in waterway on Blue River.

On Monday and Tuesday, 22 damage assessment personnel with IDHS began collecting information from the severe weather and are continuing to gather data. This is an important step in order to determine if Indiana will be eligible for any federal disaster assistance.

Jennings County – The Jennings County EMA office has been damaged and continues to be deemed unsafe by local officials. The IDHS Mobile Command trailer has been deployed to Jennings County as a temporary site for the EMA.

Feeding operations continued today in Crawford County by the Red Cross, in Harrison County by local faith based groups with support from the Red Cross as needed, and in Floyd County by the Salvation Army and at the shelters in Lake County.

Ice shipments have been ordered for medicinal purposes, including insulin refrigeration, in Clark County.

Harrison County - Using fire stations as distribution points for ice.